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Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child
Sixty-sixth session

Summary record (partial)* of the 1876th meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Monday, 26 May 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Sandberg

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Chairperson** declared open the sixty-sixth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Statement by the representative of the Secretary-General

2. **Ms. Prouvez** (representative of the Secretary-General) said that 2014 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely adopted international human rights instrument in the world, and that the General Assembly would convene a high-level meeting on 20 November 2014 to mark the occasion, which the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would attend. The State of Palestine had become the 194th State to accede to the Convention, and there were currently more States parties to the Convention than States Members of the United Nations.

3. Following its ratification by Costa Rica, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure had come into force on 14 April 2014. The establishment of an international individual complaints procedure and of an inquiry procedure, which had been sorely lacking, constituted an important milestone for the Committee and for rights-holders.

4. Recalling the main lines of General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, adopted on 9 April 2014, the representative of the Secretary-General said that, as of 2015, the treaty bodies would benefit from additional meeting time and that human and financial resources would be allocated from the regular budget. In addition, the resolution reaffirmed the independence of treaty body members and made provision for capacity-building support for States parties to help them fulfil their reporting obligations and establish national reporting and coordination mechanisms. The constructive contributions of the treaty bodies had been instrumental in the process of adopting the resolution.

5. The representative of the Secretary-General recalled that the resolution encouraged the treaty bodies to harmonize their working methods and to work together while continuing to apply the Poznan formula, which struck a balance between autonomy and unity within the treaty body system. In preparation for the meeting of the chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies to be held in June, the Committee had been invited to discuss several issues, including the simplified reporting procedure, the alignment of methodologies for constructive dialogue with States parties and the adoption of a common format for short, focused and concrete concluding observations.

6. During its most recent sessions, the Human Rights Council had paid particular attention to the rights of the child. In March 2014, it had devoted its annual day of discussion on the rights of the child to the subject of access to justice for children and had decided that its next annual debate would have the theme of "Towards better investment in the rights of the child". The issue of violence against children continued to be a focus for attention throughout the United Nations system, as demonstrated by the landmark joint report on the prevention of and responses to violence against children in the juvenile justice system, drafted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children. An intergovernmental process was under way to develop model strategies and practical measures for eliminating violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and, in March 2014, the Human Rights Council had adopted resolution 25/10, entitled "Ending violence against children: a global call to make the invisible visible". At its twenty-sixth session, the Council would devote

two panel discussions to issues relating to children, namely female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage.

7. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in conjunction with the World Health Organization and several Committee members, had worked on the preparation of technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity in children under 5 years of age. The significant inequities that existed between and within countries on the issue of infant mortality were not only driven by poverty but were also linked to social exclusion and de jure and de facto discrimination.

8. Finally, the representative of the Secretary-General referred to the traumatic situation of the Nigerian girls abducted by Boko Haram in April 2014, an event that had brought into stark focus the serious violations of children's rights, and in particular of girls' rights, that occurred in many parts of the world.

Adoption of the agenda

9. *The agenda (CRC/C/66/1) was adopted.*

Submission of reports by States parties

10. **Ms. Franchetti** (Secretary of the Committee) said that 9 State party reports had been received since the previous session of the Committee, meaning that there were now 96 reports pending consideration. The State of Palestine had acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 7 April 2014, bringing the number of States parties to the Convention to 194. Samoa had submitted its second to fourth periodic reports under the Convention, Barbados had submitted its second to fifth reports, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Suriname their third to fourth reports, Bulgaria its third to fifth reports and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland its fifth periodic report. As of 26 May 2014, Nauru and Tonga were the only States parties not to have submitted initial reports under the Convention. One State party, Ethiopia, had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, bringing the number of States that had ratified the instrument to 165. Peru had also submitted its initial report under the Protocol. Four States parties — Estonia, the State of Palestine, Ethiopia and Saint Lucia — had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, bringing the number of States that had ratified that instrument to 156. Peru had also submitted its initial report under that Protocol. The number of States that had signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure remained unchanged since the previous session, at 45; one State, Costa Rica, had ratified the Protocol, bringing the number of ratifications to 10. The Optional Protocol had thus entered into force on 14 April 2014, three months after the tenth ratification.

Consideration of reports of States parties

11. **Ms. Franchetti** (Secretary of the Committee) read out the timetable for the consideration of periodic reports.

Cooperation with other United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other competent bodies

12. **The Chairperson** welcomed the Committee's many partners, which included United Nations bodies, NGOs and national human rights and children's rights institutions.

Methods of work of the Committee and treaty body strengthening

13. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee would continue to discuss its methods of work, and especially the impact on its work of the adoption of resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system.

Day of general discussion

14. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee would hold its day of general discussion on the subject of "Digital media and the rights of the child" on 12 September 2014, during its sixty-seventh session.

General comments

15. **The Chairperson** said that during its sixty-fifth session the Committee had decided to develop two new general comments, on public spending to realize children's rights and on adolescents. It would begin work on those issues and continue its work on harmful traditional practices with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Future sessions

16. **The Chairperson** announced that the sixty-seventh session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child would take place in Geneva from 1 to 19 September 2014.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.40 a.m.